

reference to a super majority provision in a balanced budget amendment. Some point out that even when it comes to treaties in the other body, a super majority is required there, but that is a very, very special case.

Taking into account that treaties are quite properly the purview of the other body, let me ask this, Mr. Speaker: What is a treaty, after all, if not a compact or a contract?

I humbly propose that our Contract With America is in essence a peace treaty with the hard-working, tax-paying men and women of this country, saying that a super majority should be required to increase taxes. Let us move forward on the balanced budget amendment and enact the Contract With America.

#### THE IMPERIAL SPEAKERSHIP GOES TOO FAR

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, having worked very hard this weekend, having made a special round trip here to interrupt my weekend in my district to work on the Mexico loan bill, trying in cooperation with other Members to put together a set of conditions that would allow us to respond to a potential crisis in a way that met Members' concerns, I was appalled to see a memorandum from the chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services on the Republican side threatening us that if we did not desist in our speaking about disagreements with the Speaker of the House, this would jeopardize the Mexico loan bill.

Members on the other side have said that we must do the people's business. There is no inconsistency between vigorous debate where we disagree and working together where we agree. This effort to threaten us into silence by telling us that if we continue to express our views on the unrelated issues we have about the Speaker, we will therefore have them pull the plug on negotiations over the Mexico loan, makes it clear who it is that is interested in blocking things. The imperial speakership is being taken much too far.

#### REPUBLICANS WANT TO CHANGE CONGRESS; DEMOCRATS WANT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT

(Mr. EVERETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, events on the House floor the last few days may have caused some viewers to think that the people's House is the most expensive day care center in the world. It, of course, is not. The planned disruption by those with no ideas will not keep Repub-

licans from changing the culture of Washington.

Mr. Speaker, the American people elected a Republican majority in November. They sent a clear message: Clean up the way Congress conducts its business.

We promise to bring to the floor issues that the American people want to see, including unfunded mandate legislation and a balanced budget amendment. We are working to change the culture of Washington to bring discipline to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to get on with the business at hand. I want to change Congress, while some Democrats just want to change the subject.

#### CALLING FOR OPENNESS AND AN END TO CLOSED DOOR MEETINGS

(Mr. TORRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, following this past week's events regarding the Speaker's book deal it has become clear to us here in Congress that the Republicans do not want the American people to know about the details.

I ask, is it coincidence that Republican members of the House Commerce Committee met yesterday in a closed door session with the CEO's of major telecommunications companies—among them multimillionaire publishing magnate Rupert Murdoch?

And today's Washington Post reports that Speaker GINGRICH addressed the group at a closed dinner last night.

Is it coincidence that Democrats are being silenced and ruled out of order when questioning the book deal?

The Republicans have stated that they want a more open House—should the American people be shut out from knowing what happened last night behind closed doors?

What happened to letting the sunshine in?

Mr. Speaker, the American people want to know.

#### CONGRESS MUST STOP QUIBBLING AND GET TO WORK

(Mrs. SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I think what we are seeing here today is majoring in minors. The American people want to hear about the business of this House. They want to hear about the promises we kept, or are keeping, that we have made. They are tired of quibbling.

I went home for a few days and found that they go, "why are you guys fighting? Why aren't you working?" I want to tell the Members, the bill before us today, the most important bill, is unfunded mandates. That bill needs to be passed. We need to get to it.

The simple fact is the Safe Drinking Water act is costing one of my little towns nearly \$2 million, and their water already tests clean. Their total budget is less than \$3 million. That is what they care about. They are sick and tired of ignoring what is important. That is getting about the people's business, not listening to book deals.

Let us get to work and stop quibbling. They are starting to ask if we are children, and really, I do not think we are.

#### CHILDISHNESS IN PROTECTING AN IMPERIAL SPEAKERSHIP

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to make the record straight on this, whether or not we are being childish. This morning I read a woman in Vienna was sent to prison for 3 months for criticizing Maria Teresa, who has been dead for 131 years, because the Austrians will not tolerate anyone picking on their royalty, dead or alive.

We all say "Aren't we glad we are Americans? That cannot happen here," except we now have a memo from the other side of the aisle saying they are going to stop all business here if we do not stop pointing out there are some really troubling conflict of interest issues that we have with the Speaker and his continuing fox hunt as he looks to what he is going to do with this book deal.

That, to me, sounds like it is being childish. That sounds like a tantrum. It looks like a tantrum. I think there is a real question about who is being childish in protecting this imperial speakership.

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#### TIME TO END WELFARE AS WE KNOW IT

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, when Bill Clinton campaigned for President as a new Democrat he promised to end welfare as we know it. But, unfortunately, he talked right and governed left. His first so-called reform expanded welfare spending by \$110 billion and jettisoned what was left of welfare.

Mr. Clinton isn't the first liberal to promise reform. Since 1965 we have spent over \$5 trillion on welfare and all we have to show is disintegrating families, children having children, burned out cities, and a 30 percent illegitimacy rate.

Last November, the American people said, "enough is enough." They want to stop the vicious cycle of dependence which has morally bankrupted three